

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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R 211310Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8336

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IS, XF

SUBJ: ARAFAT VISIT

1. SUMMARY: YASSER ARAFAT DEPARTED AUGUST 18 AFTER VISIT WHICH INCLUDED CALL ON KING FAISAL. FOREIGN MINISTRY FFI-CIALS GENERALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE ABOUT VISIT, WHICH WE REGARD AS ONE OF A CONTINUING SERIES REFLECTING THE PLO'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN STEADY HIGH LEVEL CONTACT WITH THE SAG. AS POSSIBLE JORDANIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT TALKS DRAW CLOSER IT IS LIKELY THAT ARAFAT FEELS A GREATER NEED THAN USUAL TO PRESS FOR CONTINUED SAG SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. ARAFAT DEPARTED AUGUST 18 AFTER ANOTHER IN SERIES OF

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VISIT BY PLO LEADER TO THE KINGDOM. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED

AFTER TALKS WITH KING, BUT ABU HISHAM, DIRECTOR OF FATEH OFFICE IN KINGDOM, GAVE INTERVIEW TO DAILY AL-NADWA FOLLOWING DEPARTURE. EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE BY HAMMAD AL-SALIMI FOLLOW: QUOTE:

A. THE VISIT IS A DISTINCT SIGN OF THE INCREASING BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE MOVEMENT. THESE RELATIONS ARE BASED ON CANDOR, TRUTH, AND BROTHERHOOD, THEREBY CONSTITUTING A SOLID BACKGROUND CAPABLE OF RESISTING ALL ATTEMPTS MADE BY CERTAIN CIRCLES TO SPLIT OR DISTURB THIS RELATION. THESE CIRCLES FORGET OR PRETEND TO FORGET THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION STAND IN ONE TRENCH FIGHTING ONE ENEMY, AND THAT THE BROTHERHOOD OF WEAPON AND JIHAD IS IMMUNE FROM ALL ATTEMPTS AT BRINGING ABOUT DISCORD OR DISTURBANCE.

B. BROTHER ABU 'UMAR'S VISIT IS ONE OF CONSULTATION AND CONTINUED COORDINATION AMONG COMPANIONS AND BROTHERS. KING FAISAL HAS STRESSED THIS FACT TO ABU 'UMAR DURING THEIR ENCOUNTER WHEN HIS MAJESTY SAID INNER QUOTE IF ALL FAIL YOU, WE WILL NOT; AND SHOULD ALL STAND AGAINST YOU, WE WILL BE BY YOUR SIDE END INNER QUOTE.

C. CONCERNING ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM'S SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, ABU HISHAM SAID: SAUDI SUPPORT AND AID WAS BORN WHEN THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION EMERGED, AND EXPANDED WITH ITS ESCALATION. THIS AID EXISTS ON BOTH THE OFFICIAL AND POPULAR LEVELS. ON THE POPULAR LEVEL, MANY SAUDI BROTHERS JOIN THEIR PALESTINIAN BROTHERS IN SUPPORTING THE "POPULAR COMMITTEES" AND IN PERMANENT MORAL SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN WARRIORS BY FEELINGS, SENTIMENTS, AND BLOOD AS WELL. ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL, THERE IS DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPPORT. THE FIRST INCLUDES MATERIAL, MILITARY, POLITICAL, MORAL, AND INFORMATION SUPPORT. I DO NOT HAVE TO ELABORATE ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SUPPORT; HOWEVER, I CAN SAY THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE CONSTITUTES A BASIC ELEMENT OF FINANCING THE REVOLUTION AND UPHOLDING IT MATERIALLY AND MILITARILY ... THE ENEMY, TODAY, IS ENTIRELY BELEAGUERED POLITICALLY; THE KINGDOM HAS PLAYED A GREAT ROLE IN LAUNCHING AND INTENSIFYING THIS SEIGE.

UNQUOTE.

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3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH ABU HISHAM STATING THAT A PROVISIONAL PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT QUOTE MIGHT UNQUOTE BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY, AND PREDICTED THAT A FIFTH WAR WOULD ERUPT WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REVOLUTION WOULD ACCEPT NO SOLUTION OTHER THAN A LONG-TERM POPULAR WAR.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE GENERALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE

ABOUT THE VISIT, WHICH WE REGARD AS ONE OF A SERIES DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL CONTACT WITH THE SAG. ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID SAG STILL WAS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING AREAS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOJ AND PLO, BUT THERE APPEARED LITTLE BASIS FOR HARMONY BETWEEN THEM. EMBASSY CONJECTURES THAT AS JORDANIAN - ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT TALKS DRAW CLOSER, ARAFAT MAY FEEL A GREATER THAN USUAL NEED TO ASSURE HIMSELF OF SAG SUPPORT.

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